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9 each POS terminal unit is not provided with any  
10 POS system execution program, and has at least a  
11 transmission data generating function and a communication  
12 function for data exchange with the host unit.

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1 9. (AMENDED) A POS system comprising a host unit and a  
2 plurality of POS terminal units connected thereto via a  
3 predetermined communication line for data transfer/receipt  
4 between each POS terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:

5 execution programs of the POS system are stored  
6 in the host unit;

7 each POS terminal unit is not provided with any  
8 POS system execution program, and has at least a  
9 transmission data generating function and a communication  
10 function for data exchange with the host unit; and

11 execution programs of the POS system are updated  
12 only at the host.

1 10. (AMENDED) A POS system comprising a host unit and a  
2 plurality of different POS units connected via  
3 predetermined communication line thereto and operable in  
4 POS systems for different kinds of services, wherein:

5 POS system execution programs for the different  
6 kinds of services are collectively stored in the host unit;

7 each POS unit is not provided with any  
8 corresponding system execution program, and has at least a  
9 transmission data generating function and a communication  
10 function for data exchange with the host unit; and

11 a maintenance system for the maintenance of the  
12 plurality of the POS systems for the different kinds of  
13 services is provided only in the host unit.

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1 13. (AMENDED) A system for effecting point of sale  
2 functions, the system comprising:  
3 a) a host, the host including means for storing all  
4 programs related to execution of the point of sale  
5 system, and means for storing all programs related to  
6 maintaining the point of sale system;  
7 b) at least two point of sale terminals, each of the  
8 at least two point of sale terminals having  
9 i) means for generating transmission data, and  
10 ii) means for exchanging data with the host; and  
11 c) communication means coupled with the host and each  
12 of the at least two point of sale terminals, and  
13 facilitating communications between the host and each  
14 of the at least two point of sale terminals.

✓ Please cancel claims 2, 11 and 12 without  
prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited  
therein.

Please add the following new claims:

1 -- 16. (NEW) The POS system of claim 1 wherein at least  
one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a voice  
input.

17. (NEW) The POS system of claim 9 wherein at least one  
of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a voice  
input.

18. (NEW) The POS system of claim 10 wherein at least one  
of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a voice  
input.

19. (NEW) The system of claim 13 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals includes a voice input.

20. (NEW) The POS system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a display and a printer.

21. (NEW) The POS system of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a display and a printer.

22. (NEW) The POS system of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a display and a printer.

23. (NEW) The system of claim 13 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals further includes a display and a printer.

24. (NEW) Apparatus for use in a system including a bank-related<sup>130</sup> system for executing settling processes based on sales data and a credit-related system for executing settling processes based on sales data, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a host unit;<sup>100</sup>
- b) a shop-side POS terminal unit for generating the sales data;<sup>110</sup>
- c) a maintenance center;<sup>150</sup> and
- d) data transfer lines connecting the host unit to each of the shop-side POS terminal unit, the

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bank-related system, the credit-related system, and  
the maintenance center,

wherein the sales data used by the bank-related  
system and credit-related system are provided from the  
shop-side POS terminal unit, and

wherein programs for executing processes on the  
shop-side POS terminal unit for a plurality of different  
kinds of services are stored on the host unit.--

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii), a  
separate sheet(s) with the rewritten claims marked-up to  
show the changes made to the previous version of the  
claims, is filed herewith.

#### REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the  
following remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that  
the pending claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C.  
§ 102 and are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103.  
Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in  
condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner  
believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes  
that some or all of the claims are not in condition for  
allowance, the applicant respectfully requests that the  
Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone  
Examiner Interview before any further actions on the  
merits.

The applicant will now address each of the issues  
raised in the outstanding Office Action.